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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,646	03/25/2004	Martin Swahn	81094716	6100
22844	7590	11/18/2005	EXAMINER	
FORD GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. SUITE 600 - PARKLANE TOWERS EAST ONE PARKLANE BLVD. DEARBORN, MI 48126			FERGUSON, MICHAEL P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,646	SWAHL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael P. Ferguson	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

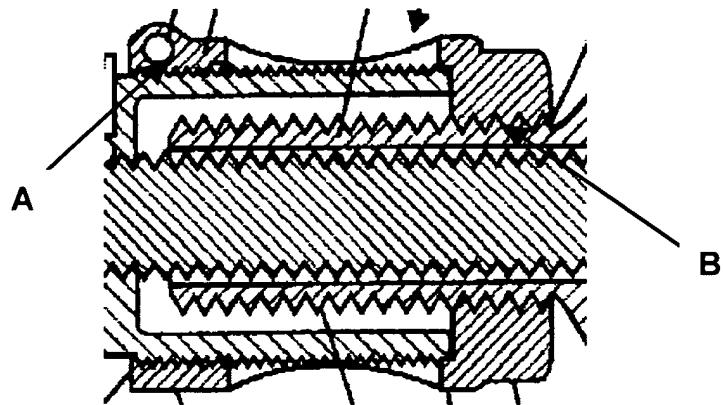
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5,7,8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ng (US 5,906,450).

As to claim 1, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement for enabling fixing of a structure member to a body structure member, the coupling arrangement comprising:

two externally threaded tubes **58,67**, one of the externally threaded tubes provided in a first end portion **A** (Figure 8 reprinted below with annotations) of an internally threaded passage through a housing **54** and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, and another one of the externally threaded tubes provided in a second opposite end portion **B** of the internally threaded passage and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, the housing being fixed attachable (via connection to threaded tubes **58,67**, via rings **66,71**) in relation to the structure members, wherein a threaded bolt **73** is arranged through the passage and the threaded bolt is adapted to connect the body structure member to the structure member in a coupling position, from which coupling position the threaded bolt, via inserts (respective bores within threaded tubes **58,67**) provided in the externally threaded tubes, enables adjusting operations of the threaded tubes in opposite directions along

the threaded bolt, so that the threaded tubes are adjustable to a respective fixed position by turning the threaded bolt (Figure 8).



As to claim 2, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is arranged left-hand threaded in the first end portion of the housing **54** and the one another one of the threaded tubes is arranged right-hand threaded in the second opposite end portion of the housing (Figure 8).

As to claim 3, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the fixing of the coupling arrangement is enabled by operation of the threaded bolt **73** which is accessible from the outside of the body structure member (attached to ring **71**) relative to the coupling arrangement (Figure 8).

As to claim 4, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a body tensioning tube forming a supporting structure with the housing **54** for the interior of the body structure in a fixed position (via rings **66,71**; Figure 8).

As to claim 5, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a tolerance absorbing tube capable of forming a supporting structure between the coupled structure members (Figure 8).

As to claim 7, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein any one of the threaded tubes **58,67** and threaded housing **54** is provided with flanges (rings **66,71**) for support against a structure member (Figure 8).

As to claim 8, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the threaded bolt **73** is arranged to slide against an insert (respective bores within threaded tubes **58,67**) of a corresponding threaded tube **58,67** when the threaded tube having reached a hard stop (inherently, threaded bolt **73** is capable of shearing its threads and sliding within threaded tubes **58,67** when a large enough hard stop force acts upon the threaded members).

As to claim 10, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement capable of fixing a first structure member to a second structure member in a vehicle, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a housing **54** having an internally threaded passage and being fixedly attachable (via connection to threaded tubes **58,67**, via rings **66,71**) in relation to the structure members;

two externally threaded tubes **58,67** disposed in the internally threaded passage, one of the externally threaded tubes provided in a first end portion of the internally threaded passage and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, and another one of the externally threaded tubes provided in a second opposite end portion of the internally threaded passage and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage; and

a threaded bolt **73** arranged through the internally threaded passage, the threaded bolt being adapted (via rings **66,71**) to connect the first structure member to the second structure member in a coupling position, from which coupling position the threaded bolt, via inserts (respective bores within threaded tubes **58,67**) provided in the externally threaded tubes, enables adjusting operations of the threaded tubes in opposite directions along the threaded bolt, so that the threaded tubes are adjustable to a respective fixed position by turning the threaded bolt (Figure 8).

As to claim 11, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is arranged left-hand threaded in the first end portion of the housing **54** and the another one of the threaded tubes is arranged right-hand threaded in the second opposite end portion of the housing (Figure 8).

As to claim 12, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the fixing of the coupling arrangement is enabled by operation of one threaded bolt **73** which is accessible from the outside of the first structure member (attached to ring **71**) relative to the coupling arrangement (Figure 8).

As to claim 13, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a body tensioning tube forming a supporting structure with the housing **54** for the interior of the first structure member in a fixed position (via rings **66,71**; Figure 8).

As to claim 14, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a tolerance absorbing tube capable of forming a supporting structure between the coupled structure members (Figure 8).

As to claim 15, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein any one of the threaded tubes **58,67** and threaded housing **54** is provided with flanges (rings **66,71**) for support against a structure member (Figure 8).

As to claim 16, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the threaded bolt **73** is arranged to slide against an insert (respective bores within threaded tubes **58,67**) of a corresponding threaded tube **58,37** when the threaded tube having reached a hard stop (inherently, threaded bolt **73** is capable of shearing its threads and sliding within threaded tubes **58,67** when a large enough hard stop force acts upon the threaded members).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 9 is allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 9, Ralko et al. (US 6,431,602) discloses the claimed vehicle body with the exception of one of the externally threaded tubes being provided in a first end portion of an internally threaded passage through a housing and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, and another one of the externally threaded tubes being provided in a second opposite end portion of the internally threaded passage and thereadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

vehicle body as disclosed by Ralko et al. to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed August 26, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to claims 1 and 10, Attorney argues that:

Ng does not disclose a coupling arrangement wherein *one of the externally threaded tubes is provided in a first end portion of an internally threaded passage through a housing and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, and another one of the externally threaded tubes is provided in a second opposite end portion of the internally threaded passage and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage.*

Examiner disagrees. As to claims 1 and 10, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the externally threaded tubes **58,67** is provided in a first end portion **A** of an internally threaded passage through a housing **54** and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage, and another one of the externally threaded tubes is provided in a second opposite end portion **B** of the internally threaded passage and threadedly engaged with the internally threaded passage (Figure 8).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MPF

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11/08/05

Daniel P Stodola

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APPROVED
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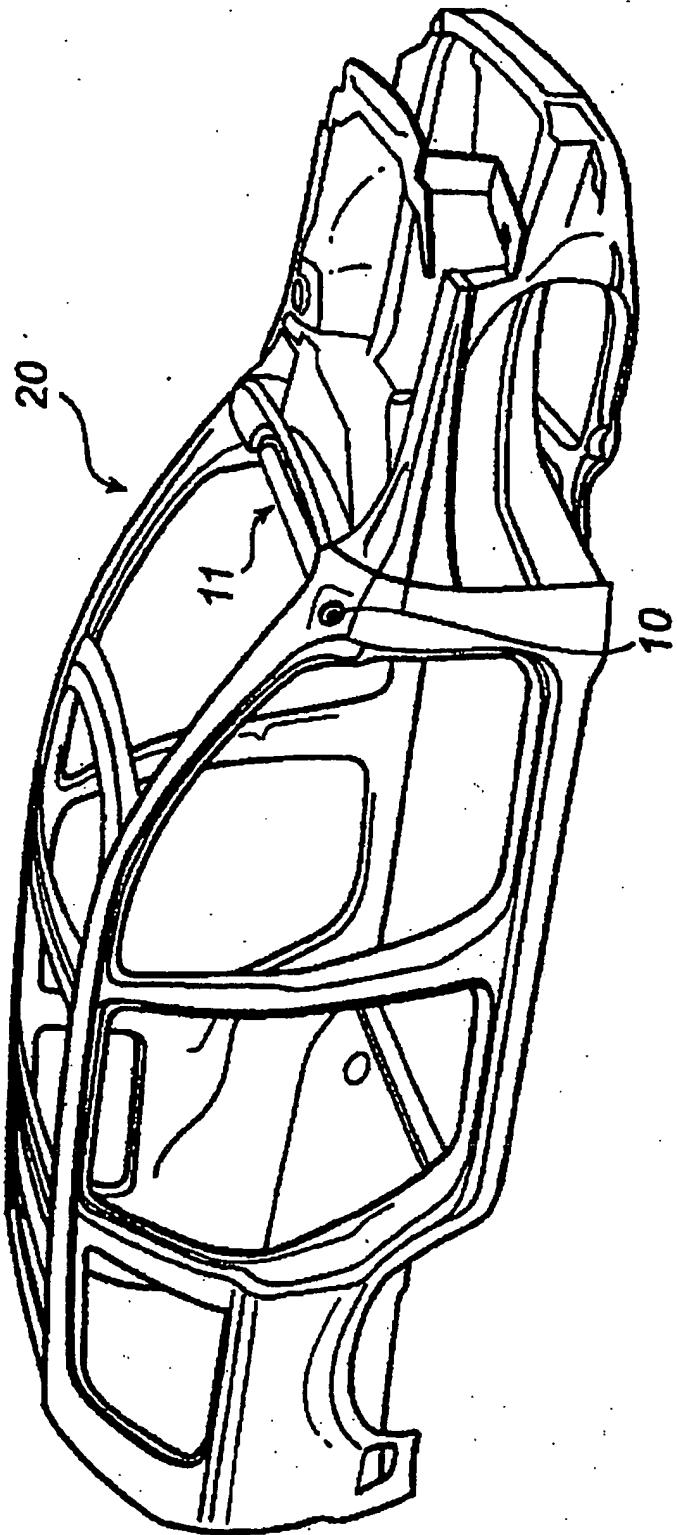


Fig. 3